City Green Pet Policy

June 19, 2018





# City Green

- The grass area at City Green is a 0.5 acre lawn
- Sits adjacent to the interactive fountains for children
- Greenspace programming will include many lawn seating events
- The Green is the closest area for nearby residents to walk their dogs, which are allowed in local apartment buildings
  - Of approximately 100 units leased in early June at the Aston, the majority of residents have dogs



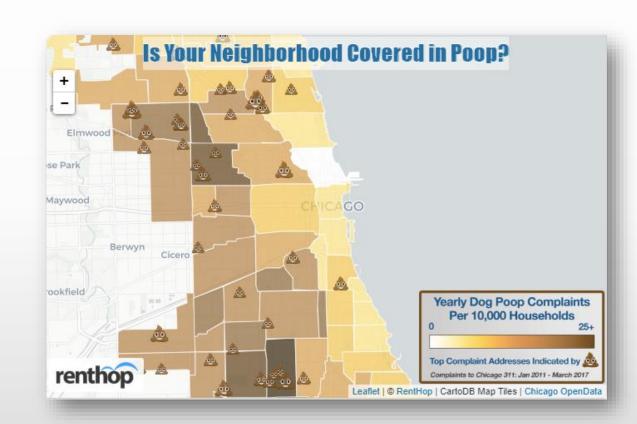
# **Primary Concerns**

- The use of City Green for local resident dog walking presents several challenges:
  - Animal excrement
  - Harmful to grass and plant material
  - Ensuring that dog owners pick up after their dogs (this issue has already presented itself on the green and in planted areas)
  - Water quality concerns



# Example: Chicago, Illinois

- Outdoor movies at Fulton River Park canceled because of excessive dog poo.
- Mary Bartelme Park: Discussion of installing cameras to catch owners who fail to clean up poop
- Maggie Daley Park (20-acres)
  - No dogs allowed in the park
- Millennium Park (24.5-acres)
  - No dogs allowed in the park



# Example: Atlantic Street Park, New Jersey

- Similarly to City Green, Atlantic Street Park is an oasis in the heart of downtown. With its outdoor stage, lush grass, and shade trees, it is the cornerstone of the Hackensack Performing Arts Center complex
- Home to Shakespeare in the Park, Movies under the Stars, Sunset Yoga, Zumba, concerts, etc.
- April 10, 2018: Council unanimously passed an ordinance prohibiting dogs from entering the park after many complaints of dog owners not picking up after their pets
- Fine Schedule: Not less than \$250 for first offense | \$500 for second offense | \$1,000 for each subsequent offense





# Examples in Georgia

- Stone Mountain prohibits dogs in many public areas including the Lasershow Lawn, the Walk Up Trail, & Special Events Areas
- Forsyth County prohibits dogs at the Sawnee Mountain Preserve
- City of Canton does not allow dogs at Boling Park
- City of Douglasville prohibits dogs in its parks
- City of Atlanta restricts dogs in several areas of Grant Park, including the zoo, cyclorama, swimming, tennis, and athletic field areas
- Both the State Botanical Garden and the Atlanta Botanical garden do not allow pets inside the garden

# **Proposed Solution**

- Establish & strictly enforce a "no-pet" policy on City Green
- City Springs Green shall include both paved and unpaved areas within the defined area



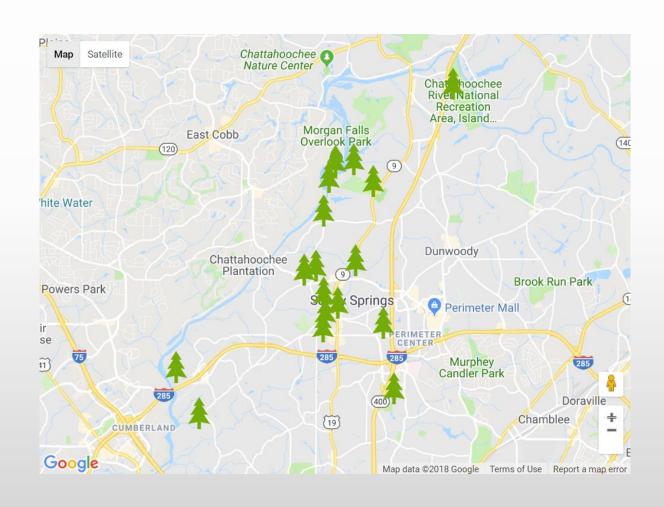


# **Proposed Solution**

- Establish penalties against an individual who permits a dog or other domesticated or exotic animal/fowl, livestock or other wildlife on the City Springs Green:
  - First Offense: \$50
  - Second & Third Offenses: \$100
  - Fourth Offense and over: \$250
- 30-day warning period before fines are enforced

#### Alternative Areas for Pet Owners

- All other City Parks are available for pet owners, such as:
  - Morgan Falls Dog Park
  - Heritage Green
  - Abernathy Linear Parks
  - Big Trees Forest Preserve
  - Windsor Meadows Park
  - National Recreation Areas



# Next Steps

- Notify surrounding apartment management
- Install permanent signage
- Establish plan for enforcement